



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## Minutes 01/13/2010

Fiscal Resources Task Group - Vision 2020  
 Minutes of Meeting 1/13/10

Present: Gordon Jamieson (Chair), David Garbarino, Pete Howard (Secretary)

### 1. PROGRESS REPORTS/UPDATES

- a. Buck slip status: Thanks to prodding by the FRTG, the Treasurer agreed to include a 8 1/2 x 3 2/3 page in his bill mailing. The DPW has prepared a piece to be included in the excise tax bills that addresses misunderstandings of single stream recycling.
  - Insurance budget revision status: The FinCom VP who handles the budget spreadsheets is receptive to a better presentation. He suggests a discussion of this and other issues w/ the new Deputy Town Manager when hired. This topic will be deleted from our report.
  - Trust fund Treasurer letter of thanks: Gordon to do
  - Water/Sewer BoS letter of inquiry discussion: Gordon to do
  - Online payment/online fee issue fincom letter review: Unclear who might use this option since some internet savvy people use automatic payment services offered by banks. Gordon to draft letter to FinCom's Finances SubCom
  - V2020 Census Insert Survey process/outcome/discussion: Our suggested questions, intended in part to dramatize the fiscal situation, were mostly not used but did get the ball rolling. The deficit is the main topic.
  - My tax dollars - Town Manager asked Alan Jone to review the FY2009 version. He did and found a few minor discrepancies. Peter to respond.
- Jones is willing to tie the My Tax Dollars spreadsheet to the FinCom spreadsheet but has not heard from Peter. Gordon to follow up.
- AFD Staffing Analysis (day/night call analysis) - Not discussed

### WARRANT ARTICLES

- SOTTA: Marie Krepelka, BoS Administrator has promised to submit a new article 2 as we suggested. Diane Mahon, probably the incoming chair, has said she would give the address.
- Additional items - Use of reserves/tip funds: Gordon proposed an article to allow transfers from the stabilization funds if needed. Such transfers require 2/3 votes. The group approved after considerable discussion.

### REPORTS

- Retrospective 5yr Report: After a detailed discussion, Gordon will make several changes. Add a brief intro saying the plan worked as intended. Under Revenue Recognition he will include simple charts of the data to introduce the conclusions. Non-performing budgets should also get data charts. Non-Core Revenue & Expenditure: Several suggestions made.

### FUTURE

- My tax dollars FY10: Peter
- Assessor website (description of assessment process): Gordon
- Regionalization study (for FY10-FY11): As currently envisioned would represent a broad effort to collect information on possible cost savings from combining some town functions with other communities. It might include a review of existing regionalization efforts, interviews with Town leaders, study of regionalization agreements elsewhere in MA and US. Goal would be to report to 2011 Town Mtg

NEXT MEETINGS - All scheduled for 7:30 in Town Hall Annex meeting room - TBD